

## ***PRESS RELEASE***



15 Queen's Park West  
Port of Spain  
Trinidad & Tobago  
Tel: (868) 622-6371

### **EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION**

September 14, 2012

#### **U.S condemns video which sparked violence in Middle East Condolence Book opens at Embassy**

Ambassador Beatrice W. Welters has joined in condemning the attacks on U.S. Embassies in Libya, Yemen and Egypt and the killing of U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other American diplomats.

Ambassador Welters said:

"The video 'The Innocence of Muslims' is a hateful attack on a great religion. It seems to have been created specifically to cause strife. There are even reports the producer lied to the cast and crew about the theme and content of the video. It does not reflect the beliefs or culture of the United States. But there is no justification for violence. Hateful messages are best combated through peaceful protest, education and tolerance. As Ambassador I have seen first-hand how Trinidad and Tobago's culture embraces mutual understanding among different faiths. I thank the people of Trinidad and Tobago for their outpouring of sympathy and condemnations of the violence."

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has also strongly condemned the video which sparked the violence earlier this week, saying the "United States Government had absolutely nothing to do with this video".

In a statement at the Benjamin Franklin Room of the State Department, Washington, D.C. prior to the first session of the U.S.-Morocco Strategic Dialogue, Secretary Clinton said:

“Let me state very clearly – and I hope it is obvious – that the United States Government had absolutely nothing to do with this video. We absolutely reject its content and message. America’s commitment to religious tolerance goes back to the very beginning of our nation. And as you know, we are home to people of all religions, many of whom came to this country seeking the right to exercise their own religion, including, of course, millions of Muslims. And we have the greatest respect for people of faith.”

She added:

“To us, to me personally, this video is disgusting and reprehensible. It appears to have a deeply cynical purpose: to denigrate a great religion and to provoke rage. But as I said yesterday, there is no justification, none at all, for responding to this video with violence. We condemn the violence that has resulted in the strongest terms, and we greatly appreciate that many Muslims in the United States and around the world have spoken out on this issue.”

Please see Secretary Clinton’s full statement at <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2012/09/197711.htm>

**Also please note, the Embassy has opened a condolence book at our Information Resource Centre, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Briar Place, Sweet Briar Road, Port of Spain. The book will be opened for signing until Friday September 21, 2012 between the hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Friday.**

###